COCHIN

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT OF THE THIRD BUDGET SESSION OF THE FOURTH COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.)

Vol. V — 1112.

COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Tuesday,

3rd August 1937.
19th Karkadagam 1112.

The Council met in the Council Hall, Ernakulam, at Eleven of the Clock with the Hon'ble the President (Sir Shanmukham Chetty, K. C. I. E.) in the Chair.

Messrs. C. P. Lonappan, P. Sankunni Menon, P. Raman Menon, Popatlal Goverdhan Lalan and Miss. G. M. D'Souza were absent.

Questions and Answers.

Grants—Village Libraries and Reading Rooms—payment of.

26. **Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen** *(Kattur.)*—Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have accepted the principle of giving grants to Village Libraries and Reading Rooms?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—No. (Village Libraries are run entirely at Government cost).

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen *(Kattur).*—May I know whether there has been any request for starting a library by Government from people of any village in Cranganur quite apart from the fact of giving aid?

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Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—I am not aware that there is a request for a Government village library in Cranganur. There are requests from certain villages which have asked for village libraries and some of them are being included in the distribution of the lump allotment.

Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen *(Kattur).*—Has there been any request from the Methala Panchayat to start a village library?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—If there is, it will also be included.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി *(Anthikad).*—ആലപ്പാട്ട വില്ലേജിൽനിന്ന് ഒരു ലൈബ്രറി സ്റ്റാർട്ട് ചെയ്യുന്നതിനു വേണ്ടിയുള്ള വല്ല അപേക്ഷകളും ഗവൺമെൻറിലേയ്ക്കു കിട്ടീട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—There has been one from Alapad.

മിസ്റ്റർ വി. കെ. കൃഷ്ണൻകുട്ടി *(Anthikad).*—അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ഗവൺമെൻറ് വല്ല തീരുമാനങ്ങളും ചെയ്തിട്ടുണ്ടോ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—These villages are being considered in the due order of rotation. There are villages which are not served by village libraries. Of course, they have to be taken into consideration.

Mr. K. M. Ibrahim *(Cranganur).*—Can the Hon'ble Member for Panchayats give us any information about the question of the Hon'ble Member for Kattoor about the request from the Methala Panchayat for starting a village library?

Dr. E. S. R. Menon *(Director of Public Health and Panchayats).*—I want notice. If there had been any request, it must have been forwarded to the Director of Public Instruction.

Mr. E. Ikkanda Warriar *(Urakam).*—What is the harm in giving grants-in-aid to private libraries in villages where the Government cannot run libraries of their own?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—The Hon'ble Member is referred to answer to question No. 29. It is coming. There is a foot note there as follows:—"Enquiries are however being made on the question of village libraries started under private initiative being given aid". At present, the rules as they stand allow only two categories of libraries—public libraries which are different from village libraries which are entirely run by Government. Rules have not been modified. Before doing so, I am making certain enquiries to find out how

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far it is going to affect our position financially and how it will improve the amenities of the villages.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur).*—Are you starting any village libraries next year?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Yes.

Mr. P. Govinda Menon *(Adur).*—How many?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—I cannot say now. The allotment has not been passed.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know whether the Government have got any plan with regard to the starting of village libraries?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Rules have been amended and the amended rules are said to be not quite satisfactory. So further revision of the rules is under consideration. The other programme which the Government have in respect of starting village libraries is only this:—As far as funds are available, they will start village libraries in such villages in the order of urgency as need them and roughly we shall be starting about 5 or 6 village libraries every year.

Mr. T. C. Iyyukutty *(Pazhanji).*—Have you already fixed the places?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—The unfortunate thing is requisitions from the villages themselves are coming in. In the meantime, the inspecting officers of the department are submitting their own reports that village libraries should be started. I have not been able to correlate these two and arrive at a definite list.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know, Sir, whether with regard to the programme of the Government to start at least 5 or 6 libraries every year, that will be stuck up to in the course of the next year?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Oh, Yes. It has been adhered to for the last two years and it will be adhered to in future.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know what is the average cost of running a village library?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—There are certain standing charges and there are certain

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fluctuating charges. We give an allotment of Rs. 50 for the purchase of books and a certain amount is fixed for payment to the Secretary and his assistant. In addition to that, we pay lighting charges—lighting charges varying from year to year and from library to library. There are village libraries which have received during the last year as much as Rs. 186 and the lowest on record is Rs. 70.

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi).*—Is it not cheaper to grant aids to libraries than the Government itself running libraries?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—That is the question put by the Hon'ble Member and it will be considered by Government.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know whether in view of the importance of public libraries, Government will be pleased to consider the desirability of providing more funds in that line?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—As the Diwan-President pointed out yesterday the amount of elastic expenditure is proportionately small and whatever provision can be reasonably made for this expenditure will be made.

27. Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) the number and names of Village Libraries in the State to which Government aid has been given;

(b) the amount of aid granted to each of the Libraries in (a);

(c) the number of unaided Libraries in the State?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—(a) Nil.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to (a).

(c) No information.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Mr. President, Sir, I have committed a small mistake regarding the terminology used here. If the terminology is changed from village libraries to public libraries, may I know whether the Government would be in a position to give the information?

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Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—At present, there are 12 libraries which are aided and they are

The English and Malayalam sections of the Trichur Library.
The Mulanthuruthi Public Library.
Cherai Library.
The Maharaja's Grantha Library.
The Princes' Library at Trippunithura.
The Ernakulam Public Library.
The Chelakkara Public Library.
The Ayilore Public Library.
The Irinjalakkuda Public Library

and so on.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—With regard to sub-section (c), may I know the number of unaided public libraries in the State?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—We have not got any statistics of unaided libraries. They do not interest the Government at present. There have been 3 requests for public libraries received in the course of the present financial year for consideration. Two of them are not in proper working condition.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—May I know the approximate number of libraries that have made requisitions to the Government for aid?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—To the best of my recollection it is 3.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Will the Government be pleased to consider the case of these 3 libraries?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—They are not in good working order now.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Was there not a request from the public library at Wadakkancherri ?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—It is working. There are two others not working.

Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan *(Wadakkancheri).*—Will the question of helping the Public Library at Wadakkancheri be favourably considered by Government?

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Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Yes. It will be considered.

28. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—Will the Government be pleased to state the number of Village Libraries brought under Government aid in the years 1111 and 1112?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—Nil.

29. **Mr. K. M. Kunhi Moideen** *(Kattur).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether representations have been received from the Azhikode Majlis Rahamat for grant to their Village Library and Reading Room;

(b) whether any enquiry was made about their request and a report submitted;

(c) what action the Government propose to take on the report?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—

(a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) The request for *grant* could not be considered as Government do not aid but only 'run' Village Libraries.

Note:—Inquiries are, however, being made on the question of Village Libraries started under private initiative being given aid.

Adult education—Machinery for.

30. **Mr. P. Kumaran Ezhuthassan** *(Wadakkancheri).*—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether there is any machinery conducted or aided by the Government for adult education in the State;

(b) if the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, which are they?

Rao Sahib I. N. Menon *(Director of Public Instruction).*—

(a) Yes.

(b) Village Libraries conducted by Government and Public Libraries and Travelling Library aided by Government.

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